

REMARKS

Applicants thank the examiner for granting an interview on October 6, 2004. Based on the conversation at the interview, Applicants believe that an agreement has been reached with the Examiner that the amendments to claim 1 overcome Barrie et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,669,586). Claims 1-33 and 35 are now pending in the application. Claim 34 has been cancelled. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 12, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Barrie et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,669,586, hereinafter Barrie). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that the boss in Barrie does not extend transversely from the blade and it also does not directly couple the blade to the ferrule. Claim 1 has been amended to include "a blade having a flank and a boss extending transversely from said flank, said boss received in said channel for directly coupling said blade to said ferrule...." This is a feature not found in Barrie, as the boss in that design is coupled to a ring disposed within the ferrule. Thus, Applicants assert that independent claim 1 is patentable and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants note that claims 2, 12 and 15 depend from claim 1 and as such, should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth for claim 1.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 21-33 and 35 are allowed. Claim 21 has been amended to overcome an informality. The Examiner further states that claims 3-11, 13, 14, and 16-20 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 1. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that claims 3-11, 13, 14, and 16-20 should now be in condition for allowance.

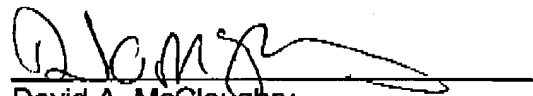
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 7, 2004

By:



David A. McClaughry
Reg. No. 37,885

HARNESS, DICKY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

DAM/JMP

Serial No. 10/706,736

Page 11 of 11